## STATE OF RHODE ISLAND

DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH
DIVISION OF CUSTOMER SERVICES
CENTER FOR PROFESSIONAL BOARDS AND LICENSING
PHYSICAL THERAPY BOARD

IN THE MATTER OF: NICHOLAS BALDWIN

LICENSEE NO.: PT02372 COMPLAINT ID #: C21-0865



## **CONSENT ORDER**

Pursuant to R. I. Gen. Laws §§ et seq. The Physical Therapy Practice Act and the Rules and Regulations promulgated thereunder 216-RICR-40-05, the Physical Therapy Regulations, the Physical Therapy Board has investigated Complaint No.C21-0865 (the "Complaint") charging Nicholas Baldwin, License No. PT02372 ("Respondent") with violations of R.I. Gen. Laws §5-40-13(A)(9) of the Physical Therapy Practice Act and Principle 7E of the American Physical Therapy Association (APTA) Code of Ethics, incorporated by reference in the Rhode Island Physical Therapy Regulations.

After review and consideration by the Board with respect to the allegations of unprofessional conduct of Respondent, the following are and shall constitute

## FINDINGS OF FACT AND CONCLUSIONS OF LAW

- 1. That Respondent is a Physical Therapist licensed to practice in the State of Rhode Island under Physical Therapy License Number PT02372.
- 2. That at all times relevant hereto, Respondent was employed at Encompass Health, Warwick, Rhode Island.
- 3. That on or about June 14, 2021, and on or about June 21, 2021 Respondent made false reports of visits with patients under his treatment.
- 4. That the conduct described in the Complaint and in Paragraph 3 above constitutes unprofessional conduct, pursuant to R.I. Gen. Laws § 5-40-13(A)(9) of the Physical Therapy Practice Act and Principle 7E of the APTA Code of Ethics incorporated by reference in the R.I. Physical Therapy Regulations, because it involved not ensuring that documentation for physical therapy services accurately reflected the nature and extent of the services provided and making false reports in the practice of physical therapy.
- 5. That Respondent admits to the jurisdiction of the Board and hereby agrees to remain under the jurisdiction of the Board.

- 6. That Respondent has read this Consent Order and understands this Consent Order shall become binding once signed by Respondent and the Board.
- 7. That Respondent understands the purpose of this Consent Order is solely to resolve the Complaint.
- 8. That Respondent hereby acknowledges and waives:
  - a) The right to have an administrative hearing on this matter;
  - b) The right to represent himself or be represented by an attorney of his own choosing at said hearing;
  - c) The right to present testimony, evidence and witnesses on his behalf;
  - d) The right to cross-examine witnesses presented by the Board;
  - e) The right to further procedural steps except for those specifically contained herein;
  - f) The right to take an appeal from the terms of this Consent Order; and
  - g) Any objection that this Consent Order will (i) be reported to the National Practitioner Data Bank, (ii) become a permanent part of Respondent's record maintained by RIDOH and a part of the public record of this proceeding, or (iii) be posted on RIDOH's public website.

## ACCORDINGLY AND BASED ON THE FOREGOING

The Board and Respondent hereby agree to the following disposition of this Complaint:

- 9. Respondent is hereby issued the sanction of a Probation, starting the day this Consent Order is last executed (the "Effective Date").
- 10. Commencing with the Effective Date:
  - a) Respondent shall complete at least 6 hours combined of continuing education on the topics of Ethics and Practitioner Burnout. These hours are in addition to any continuing education hours required for renewal of the Respondent's license. Respondent shall submit evidence to RIDOH via <a href="mailto:DOH.PRCompliance@health.ri.gov">DOH.PRCompliance@health.ri.gov</a> that these 6 hours of continuing education have been completed no later than 6 months after the Effective Date.
  - b) Respondent must obtain a Clinical Peer Supervisor ("Peer Supervisor) as approved by the Board. This individual must be a Rhode Island licensed Physical Therapist in the same clinical practice setting as the Respondent. Respondent shall meet with Peer Supervisor at least once per month. Respondent shall assure that Peer Supervisor submits monthly reports in a form acceptable to the Board by email via <a href="mailto:DOH.PRCompliance@health.ri.gov">DOH.PRCompliance@health.ri.gov</a> no later than the 15<sup>th</sup> of the month following each monthly reporting period.
  - c) Respondent must attend therapy at least once a month with a Rhode Island licensed mental health professional ("Therapist") as approved by the Board. Respondent shall assure that Therapist submits monthly reports in a form acceptable to the Board by email via <a href="mailto:DOH.PRCompliance@health.ri.gov">DOH.PRCompliance@health.ri.gov</a> no later than the 15<sup>th</sup> of the month following each monthly reporting period.

d) Respondent's Physical Therapy license will be subject to a maximum of 3 years period of probation and Respondent's license shall reflect the status "Active Probation." After 2 years of Active Probation, the Respondent may request that he be released from Probation.

e) The probationary period will abate for the duration of any period in which Respondent ceases

to be employed as a Physical Therapist.

f) Respondent will notify the Board of any lapse in employment and the probation period will be extended until the required employment as a Physical Therapist is completed. Respondent must provide the Board with the name and address of the new employer(s) and the reason for said change. Respondent shall submit to the Board evidence of certificates of completion from approved continuing education programs for the most recent renewal cycle.

g) When Respondent complies with the laws and regulations governing the practice of Physical Therapy during the period of probation and with the requirements of this Consent Order, Respondent may apply to the Board for an unrestricted license to practice as a Physical

Therapist.

11. Respondent acknowledges that:

a) this Consent Order is an agreement between Respondent and the Board,

b) The Board is relying upon Respondent's compliance with these terms and conditions as an

inducement to enter into this Consent Order; and

c) any violation of failure to adhere to the terms of this Consent Order shall constitute unprofessional conduct and subject Respondent to further disciplinary action at the discretion of the Board, including but not limited to Suspension or Revocation.

NICHOLAS BALDWIN LICENSEE NO.: PT02372 WENDY BALTZER FOX, CHAIR BOARD OF PHYSICAL THERAPY

Date Signed:

11/13/21

Date Signed:

11.22.21